



For Immediate Release

IDOC and Ivy Tech Finalize Partnership

Indianapolis, IN (April 27, 2010) –The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) and Ivy Tech Community College have concluded their assessments and finalized the agreement by which Ivy Tech will assume responsibility for providing adult educational services comprised of GED, literacy, and vocational programs to adult offenders statewide. The full implementation of the partnership will be completed by April 1, 2011.

“We are pleased to enter into this partnership with such a respected Indiana institution of learning” said IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss. “Our partnership with Ivy Tech will allow us to tear down some of the barriers to re-entry.”

Nearly 90% of all IDOC offenders are released within 30 minutes of an Ivy Tech campus. The men and women who enroll and pass Ivy Tech classes while incarcerated will be fully enrolled Ivy Tech students. Upon their release from prison and subsequent enrollment at a local Ivy Tech Campus, they will receive prior learning assessment credit toward certificate or degree programs and will have the option to finish their education.

A recent study was conducted for the Serious and Violent Offender Re-entry Initiative (SVORI) to examine the extent to which program participation improved the outcomes of adults and juveniles returning to their communities after incarceration. The study’s participants were high-risk offenders who had extensive criminal and substance use histories, low levels of education and employment skills, and families and peers who were substance and criminal justice system involved.

The study’s impact evaluation included pre-release and post-release interviews. Among soon to be released prison inmates asked about their re-entry needs, education was the most frequently mentioned need. More than 90% of the adult male participants reported needing more education immediately prior to release. Throughout the post-release interviews education remained high with 89% saying that they needed more education.

The results from this study show the need for educational opportunities for offenders both during their incarceration and after they are released back into their communities, a need that will be met with the newly formed partnership between IDOC and Ivy Tech.

“Ivy Tech is proud to join the Indiana Department of Correction in its endeavor to provide adult educational services in a more efficient, cost-effective way. This partnership is good for the offenders and the State of Indiana,” said Thomas J. Snyder, Ivy Tech President.

“We look forward to working with Ivy Tech for many years to come and providing offenders true opportunities for them to better themselves, while enhancing our ability to manage our prison population,” added Commissioner Buss.

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